"Prima Facie Evidence of Guilt":
Ford and the Blocking of the Patman Watergate Inquiry

The following five points, it is argued, establish a prima facie case warranting a review of the September, 1972 through May, 1973 White House tapes:

1. The highest ranking staff of the Nixon White House have already been convicted of conspiracy to obstruct justice and of perjury, for involvement in blocking Watergate investigations such as the Patman inquiry and other offenses

2. The September 15, 1972 White House tape, which became known several months after Gerald Ford was confirmed by Congress as Vice President, indicates that Nixon's No. 1 priority was the killing of the Patman investigation, the earliest such congressional inquiry into Watergate and which occurred before the 1972 election; the killing of the Patman inquiry was a major part of the conspiracy and cover-up, as cited in section 4 of the First Article of Impeachment of Richard Nixon

3. Ford admitted before Senate and House Committees charged with his confirmation that he participated in overt acts to stop the Patman inquiry

   -- admitted he participated on at least two occasions with Republican Members of Banking and Currency Committee(and these meetings followed release of first Banking and Currency Committee staff report on prospective Watergate inquiry in which rationale was laid out for subpoening some 20 witnesses)

4. Key aspect of White House cover-up, as disclosed on September 15, 1972 tape, was the alibi that a Patman investigation would infringe on the legal rights of the 7 Watergate burglars; the White House arranged for the Attorney General and for Henry Peterson to argue this rationale in letters to Republican Banking and Currency Committee Members(and one of these letters was in fact written by Ken Parkison, the lawyer for CREEP)

5. Ford admits talking to Republican Members about their need to justify blocking the Patman inquiry on grounds that it would infringe on legal rights of burglars (incidentally, an argument that was later rejected)

6. Ford's continuous insistence that he wasn't working in behalf of White House to block Patman inquiry, not for the sake of politics, but to protect burglars' rights is, indeed, a perpetuation of the cover-up (since this rationale has already been shown to have been part of cover-up)